

DECISION RECORD

EA LOG #: OR-010-2005-05
Project Name: Green Mountain Lookout
County: Lake
BLM Office: Lakeview District **Phone No.** 541-947-2177
Address: 1301 South G.
Lakeview, OR 97630

Decision: My decision is to construct a new lookout structure as outlined in Alternative 1 of EA #OR-010-2005-5. The lookout structure would be constructed at the site of the existing lookout. The facility would include water and shower systems, security systems, heating, bathroom facilities, and interior furnishings.

An employee would seasonally reside at the facility from approximately late May through October, as fire season requires. The primary responsibility of the employee would be fire detection in direct support of the Bureau's wildfire suppression mission, which is further outlined in the Lakeview District Fire Management Plan.

In addition, BLM Road 6109-00 would be re-aligned so that public traffic would bypass the facility. The old roadbed would be rehabilitated. Materials for the road relocation would come from an existing pit located just south of the existing lookout. The existing spur road to the facility would be left in place with a security gate installed at the road entrance, reducing non-administrative vehicle traffic. Public foot access would still be allowed.

Project Completion: Construction, as outlined in Alternative 1 in the EA, is expected to take two years to complete after funding becomes available.

Rationale: A fully functional lookout facility will continue to provide the Lakeview District with the ability to manage future wildfires within the high fire frequency area in accordance with existing land management direction (*Lakeview RMP/ROD*; 2003), the district fire management plan, and the *Fort Rock fire management plan* (EA#OR-010-96-04; 1996).

Building the facility at the existing site and re-aligning BLM road 6109-00 provides for the combination of functionality and security needed while minimizing the environmental impacts. Functionally, the existing site has proven to have adequate visual coverage for fire detection in the surrounding region. Historic problems associated with vandalism to the facility would be minimized by limiting vehicle access to the facility, thus protecting the investment. Employee security is more adequately provided by re-aligning the road and installing a security gate. Best management practices will be utilized so as to lessen impacts of construction, and although no cultural sites were found during surveys of the site, options exist to mitigate impacts to cultural resources if found during construction. The overall footprint of new disturbance is less in this option than that in all other alternatives with exception to the No Action Alternative.

Three other alternatives were analyzed in detail in the EA. Under the No Action Alternative, even with annual repair, the condition of the facility would continue to decline, becoming less functional over time. Existing hazards and functional deficiencies would be increasingly expensive to mitigate. The No Action Alternative would not provide adequate security of the site.

Alternatives 2 and 3 looked at alternative sites for the facility. These alternatives were not chosen because the environmental effects would be slightly greater than re-building the facility on the same site.

Public Involvement Opportunities:

The EA and FONSI were made available for a 30-day comment period. During that time no comment letters were received, indicating little public controversy exists regarding the proposal.

J. Todd Forbes
Acting
J. Todd Forbes *for*

Thomas E. Rasmussen, Manager
Lakeview Resource Area

5/15/09

Date